

Message Text

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11

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCCT-02 USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 212345Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3471

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3387

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJ: ATTACK AGAINST PLANNING COUNCIL DIRECTOR GERT
ROSENTHAL

1. JUNE 21 EDITION OF SENSATIONALIST IMPACTO HEADLINED STORY THAT ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL SECRETARY-GENERAL GERT ROSENTHAL ESCAPED UNHARMED FROM ATTACK IN CAPITAL ON NIGHT OF JUNE 17. ACCORDING TO IMPACTO, TWO UNIDENTIFIED ASSAILANTS FIRED AUTOMATIC WEAPONS BLASTS AT ROSENTHAL WHILE HE WAS DRIVING HOME, BUT QUICK MANEUVER BY ROSENTHAL PERMITTED HIM TO DODGE BULLETS.

2. MRS. ROSENTHAL CONFIRMED INCIDENT IN CONFIDENCE TO MISSION OFFICER ON JUNE 21 BUT DID NOT CONFIRM THE DATE. SHE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS A MIRACLE HER HUSBAND HAD SURVIVED. SHE SAID FAMILY HAD ATTEMPTED TO KEEP STORY OUT OF PRESS BUT "ONE CHEAP NEWSPAPER" HAD SCOOPED IT. FAMILY DOES NOT WISH TO FIND OUT WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ATTACK AND TO PROTECT HIM IS ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN FICTION THAT ROSENTHAL IS IN U.S. FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

3. COMMENT: IN JUNE 6 CONVERSTATION WITH AMBASSADOR, ROSENTHAL REMARKED THAT PEOPLE WHO WERE PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING HIM AS AUTHOR OF NEW EXPORT TAXES MIGHT THEREBY BE PUTTING HIS LIFE IN DANGER. ALTHOUGH ROSENTHAL SURVIVED ATTACK, WHOEVER WAS RESPONSIBLE HAS PRECIPITATED HIS DECISION TO
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LEAVE COUNTRY. ROSENTHAL NOW DEFINITELY PLANS TO ACCEPT UN

POSITION IN MEXICO AND CHILDREN ALREADY ARE ENROLLED IN
SCHOOL THERE.
MELOY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SECRETARY GENERAL, CIVIL DISORDERS, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
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Draft Date: 21 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005